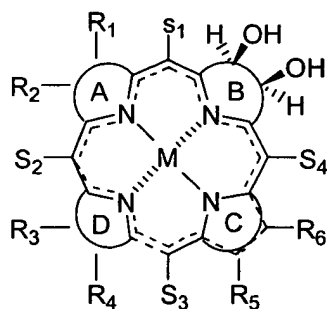


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

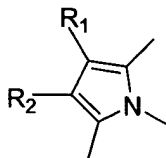
16. (original) A β,β' -dihydroxy meso-substituted chlorin, bacteriochlorin or isobacteriochlorin compound having formula (I):



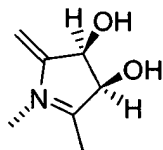
I

(Ne) wherein M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn, Sn, Ge, Si, Ga, Al, Mn(III), Gd(III), In and Tc or 2 H atoms;

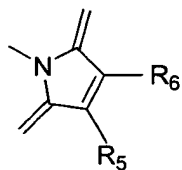
where i) A is



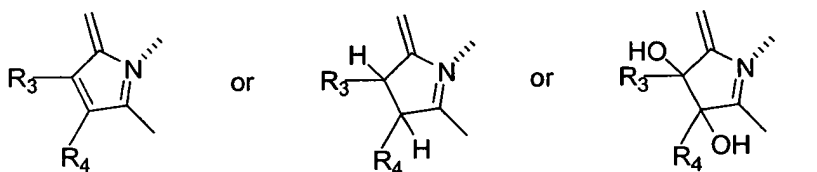
and B is



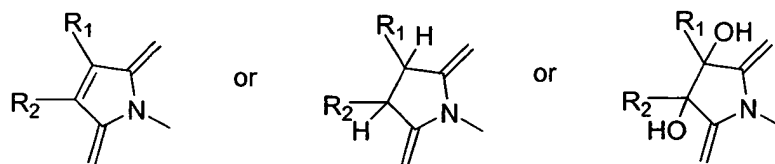
and C is



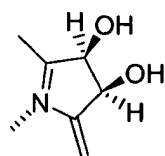
and D is



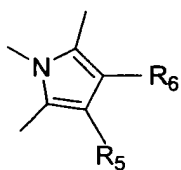
or ii) A is



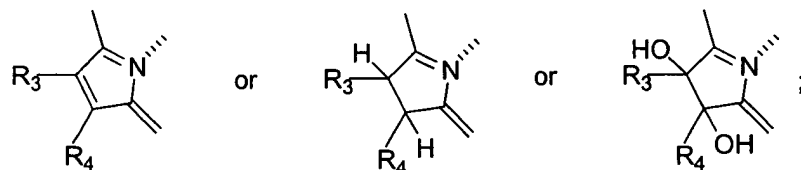
and B is



and C is



and D is



and R_1 through R_6 are independently a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkyl carboxylic acid or acid ester group, keto, hydroxy, nitro, amino, or a group that, taken together with another ring, ring substituent or meso substituent, forms a fused 5- or 6-membered ring; and

at least two of S^1 to S^4 are para substituted phenyl groups, the other S positions are independently selected from H or 6 member aryl ring groups substituted at the para and/or meta positions, which may be the same or different;

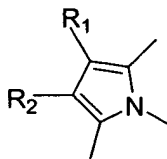
but wherein not all of S^1 to S^4 are phenyl groups substituted at the para position with

-tert-butyl, -COOH, or -CO₂CH₃ substituents.

17. (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein M is Zn.

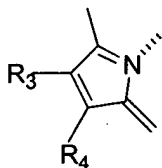
18. (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein M is 2 H atoms.

19. (currently amended) The compound of claim 16 wherein A is



or D is

B1
cont



20. (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein R₁ through R₆ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, or lower alkyl esters.

21. (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein S² and S⁴ are phenyl groups.

(re) 22. (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein the S¹ to S⁴ substitutions on said phenyl or aryl groups are independently halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxylic acid or acid salt, carboxylic acid ester, sulfonic acid or acid salt, sulfonic acid ester, substituted or unsubstituted amino, cyano, or nitro.

23. (original) The compound of claim 22 wherein the S¹ to S⁴ substitutions are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, methoxy, and hydroxy.

24. (currently amended) The compound of claim 16 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of ~~compounds 3 to 30~~ compounds 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

25. (currently amended) The compound of claim 24 wherein said compound is compound 25.

B2 26. (currently amended) An improved β,β -dihydroxy meso-substituted chlorin, bacteriochlorin or isobacteriochlorin compound selected from the group consisting of ~~compounds 3 to 24 and 26-30~~ compounds 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

27. (withdrawn) A method of photodynamic therapy comprising irradiation of a cell, tissue, organ, or subject to which a compound of claim 16 has been administered.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein said compound is compound 25.

29. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

30. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.